



ONEIDA COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

ANTHONY J. PICENTE, JR.
County Executive
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January 10, 2022

Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor
Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

Congratulations on your State of the State address. It was a welcome return to the seriousness and respect that the occasion demands.

We are writing to express our deep concern with your proposal to re-unify SUNY Polytechnic Institute's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering with the University at Albany.

As you are aware, in 2014, the State University of New York Board of Trustees unanimously approved the merger of the SUNY College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE) in Albany and the SUNY Institute of Technology (SUNYIT) in Utica. Since that time, SUNY Poly has been a growing asset in the region, which we have embraced, invested in and take enormous pride.

What you may not be aware of, is how essential SUNY Poly in Utica has become, to not only Oneida County, but to Central New York, as an asset essential to the attraction and support of the semiconductor industry. With multiple active leads being considered at both Marcy and in White Pines in Syracuse, this proposal could be perceived as a reduction in the state's commitment to attracting the industry.

SUNY Poly is both a research asset for the industry and increasingly a center for talent recruitment and workforce development. The Computer Chip Commercialization Center, known as Quad C, a shared-use colocation facility at SUNY Poly's Utica site, is enabling next-generation device processing and packaging, IT and supply chain support. And our workforce development efforts are best exemplified through Wolfspeed's (Cree) commitment of a \$2 million scholarship program over 10 years to help students from historically underserved or marginalized communities and those with significant financial hardship. In addition, Wolfspeed has committed \$1.5 to endow two faculty positions.

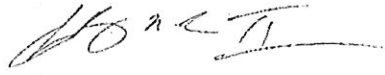
Finally, beyond the direct impacts on our efforts with the semiconductor industry, the creation of SUNY Poly has provided the missing ingredient to the region's workforce and research development infrastructure. The Mohawk Valley is rich in education and corporate and military research. What we have lacked is a significant higher education research presence. Our Air Force Research Laboratory (Rome Labs) has invested heavily in joint research and workforce development programs to grow SUNY Poly to its current prominence, predicated on the combined campus model. Diminishing SUNY Poly in any way, we fear, will move our efforts to advance the region backward.

With these concerns in mind, we are requesting a meeting with you in advance of your executive budget proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Anthony J. Picente Jr.
Oneida County Executive



Ryan McMahon
Onondaga County Executive



Joseph A. Griffo
NYS State Senator



Marianne Buttenschon
NYS State Assemblywoman

CC: Deborah F. Stanley, SUNY Chancellor

CC: Dr. Merryl H. Tisch, SUNY Board of Trustees Chairman

CC: Robert. F. Mujica Jr., NYS Budget Director